



USAID/JAMAICA– WEEKLY REPORT

June 26, 2012 Highlights:



- ◆ **Development Grants Program-4 (DGP-4)** - A two-hour information session for local NGOs and US PVOs interested in DGP-4 was held on June 14 at the Wyndham Hotel, Kingston. More than 120 persons attended the event. Concept papers for DGP-4 are due on July 2, 2012. The three focus areas for USAID/Jamaica are Basic Education, Climate Change Adaptation and Civic Participation.

***Caption:** Local NGOs and US PVOs listen intently to the two-hour information session for the Development Grants Program-4 (DGP-4) which was held on June 14 at the Wyndham Hotel, Kingston. More than 120 persons attended the event.*

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Digital Jam 2.0** -The Government of Jamaica in collaboration with The World Bank, USAID/Jamaica, Jamaican private sector ICT (information communication and technology) companies and international development partners will stage Digital Jam 2.0 - “The Future of Work is Online.” The 3-day event will include an Apps Contest, Seminars and a Marketplace and Job Fair. This interactive, youth-oriented event will be held in Kingston, June 28-30, 2012, at the Jamaica Conference Centre. Digital JAM 2.0 is being staged against the background that unemployment affects a large number of Jamaica’s youth, and the global online world of business and employment presents unparalleled new options. The virtual economy now offers new opportunities and solutions for entrepreneurs and Jamaica’s youth, such as using the internet to earn a living by performing paid tasks in the virtual economy. USAID/JAMAICA will provide funding to cover various elements of this event.
- ◆ **IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) Visit-** The International Monetary Fund’s Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) will be in Jamaica the week of July 2, to meet with the Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ), International Development Partners (IDP), private sector, and others. The group will be reviewing the reform activities of TAJ and Customs. The last visit was October 2011. Meetings are being organized for USAID representatives as well as Project to Promote, Renew, Invigorate, Develop and Energize the Economic Environment (PRIDE) Jamaica.

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Upcoming Events cont'd...

- ♦ **The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) Launch & AGM-** The Jamaican Association of Social Workers (JASW) will host its launch and Annual General Meeting on July 6, 2012 at the Pegasus Hotel. The Mission Director will bring greetings at the launch ceremony on behalf of USAID.
- ♦ **JACE Conference** - From June 27-July 1, 2012, Junior Achievement Jamaica will host a technology and innovation-themed conference for students who participated in this year's Junior Achievement Company of Entrepreneurs (JACE) program. The conference, which is in its second year, will be held at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). In the six-month program, young people ages 15-24 from high schools and community-based organizations across the island organized and operated real business enterprises: they conceptualized a product/service, wrote a business plan, sold shares to capitalize on their companies and at the end, will liquidate their companies. The top students (80-100) from the companies formed this year will attend the five-day conference. They will participate in workshops led by corporate executives and industry experts; tackle team challenges in which they will be asked to solve major problems, using technology, in four sectors: agriculture, education, energy, and healthcare; display and sell their companies' products at a public expo to be held at the historical site of Devon House; and attend an awards ceremony where the student "Company of the Year" and other sectional winners will be announced. A number of private sector companies as well as the UWI are major sponsors. Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater and Mission Director Denise A. Herbol have been invited to participate in the expo.
- ♦ **Camp Summer Plus 2012 Press Launch**– Camp Summer Plus 2012 will be hosting a Press Launch on Friday, July 6, 2012 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The launch will be held at the Ministry of Education's 3rd Floor Conference Room. During Summer 2011, USAID/Jamaica collaborated with the Ministry of Education and several private sector entities to pilot Camp Summer Plus 2011. The camp was implemented for one hundred and twenty five (125) Grade 3 students from eight (8) schools, in one Region 1 at the Shortwood Teachers' College. The results in both the academic and social dimensions were encouraging and supported the claims made by researchers, that effective summer programs are valuable in improving reading skills. Beginning July 11, 2012 and ending August 11, 2012, Camp Summer Plus 2012 will be implemented for five weeks in seven locations in three education regions impacting 1000 students. Camp Summer Plus has two main aims, namely: a) to provide focused, intensive, data-driven academic programs which are facilitated through technology and the arts, in the critical areas of reading and mathematics; and b) to provide nutritional, psychological, social and other support which are known to impact student performance. The Mission Director will bring remarks at the Press Launch.